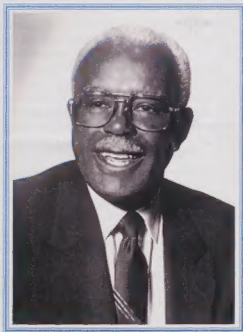


*The Celebration
of the Life of
J. Harry Smith*

August 22, 1922 ♦ December 24, 2001



Monday, December 31, 2001
11:00 A. M.

St. Joseph's Church
Maplewood, New Jersey

Obituary for J. Harry Smith

Dr. J. Harry Smith, former president of Essex County College, died Monday, December 24, 2001 at his home in Monroe Township, New Jersey. He was 79.

Fondly known as "J. Harry," Dr. Smith was a dedicated educator who invested himself wholly in the development of others. In 1941, he graduated from Barringer High School and soon after became a volunteer in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II. He saw WWII action as a Tuskegee Airman with the 477th Bomber Group and earned the rank of lieutenant by the war's end. Later he was recalled to active duty in Korea as a member of the Air Force Reserve.

Dr. Smith graduated Seton Hall University in 1948, where he was president of the debate society. He also held an M.A. degree and an honorary doctorate from Seton Hall University. J. Harry was also the first Black student to attend Georgetown University Law School on a Catholic Scholarship for Negroes.

J. Harry began a public relations career with WEVD radio in Manhattan, but his mother's loss of eyesight prompted him to return home to care for her. With the help of his parish priest, Father Patrick Owens, he obtained his first teaching position at South Market Street School, helping mentally retarded adolescent boys learn math.

In 1957, while a teacher at Robert Treat Junior High School, he met and married his late wife, Marilyn Horton Smith. In 1961, he returned to Barringer High School as an English teacher and assistant football coach. By 1964, he had become the assistant principal at Barringer.

In January 1968, Dr. Smith resigned his position at Barringer High to become Assistant to the President of Essex County. By June 1969, he was Vice President of the College and was designated Chief Executive Officer in February 1970. On May 5, 1971, he was appointed President of Essex County College, an office he held until his resignation on July 1, 1978. He then resumed teaching English and Literature at the college until he retired in September 1989.

Dr. Smith's distinguished career received national and international recognition. In 1971, he attended a worldwide conference of the International Association of University Presidents in Liberia. In 1972, he became a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts in London, England. During the mid-1970s, he served as a consultant to the World University of Puerto Rico. He also served as Chairman of the Government Relations Committee for the American Council on Education, and Commissioner of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

J. Harry Smith was a faithful member of his community, serving on several Boards of Trustees and was politically active both locally and nationally.

Some of these affiliations included:

- Vice Mayor, Maplewood Township, New Jersey
- President, Urban League of Essex County
- Chairman, Essex County Youth and Economic Rehabilitation Commission
- Director, Americans for a Competitive Enterprise System
- Member, New Jersey Scholarship Commission
- Trustee, St. Michael's Medical Center
- Trustee, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey, Inc.
- Trustee, Yorkwood Savings and Loan Association
- Trustee, Cancer Institute of New Jersey
- Trustee, Board of Eyes of New Jersey
- Trustee, Seton Hall University



J. Harry Smith received numerous awards and honors:

- The National Conference of Christians and Jews Brotherhood Award
- Service Award, Citizens for All People
- The New Jersey GOP Heritage Foundation's Educator of the Year
- The B'nai B'rith Career and Counseling Services Leadership Award
- The Achievement Award from the Frontiers International
- The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Man of the Year Award
- The Seton Hall University President's Medal for Distinguished Service
- The South Ward Boys' Clubs of Newark, Man of the Year Award

Commonly known among family and close friends as "Bear," he is survived by his three daughters and sons-in-law, Danielle and Nate Mathis of Fayetteville, Georgia, Stephanie and Frank Brown of Midlothian, Virginia, and Judi and Rollin Rachele of Alicante, Spain. He also leaves behind his sister, Blanche (Thelma) Chance; mother-in-law, Mrs. Florence Horton, two sisters-in-law, Geraldine F. Smith and Evelyn H. Davis. Bear celebrated life with his 10 grandchildren: Nicole, Manny, James, Meredith, David, Erin, Summer, Micco, Amber, and Jasmine and a host of nieces, nephews, and many, many supportive friends.

Order of Service

Prelude	Soft Music Refrains
Introductory Rite and Greeting	Fr. Tom Wisniewski
Processional Song	"Onward Christian Soldiers" (Congregation)
Opening Prayer	Fr. Tom Wisniewski

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Scripture & Devotional Reading	Mrs. Stephanie Brown, Daughter
New Testament Scripture Reading	Dr. Frank Brown, Son-in-Law
Gospel	Fr. Tom Wisniewski
Homily	Fr. Tom Wisniewski

General Intercessions

Hymn of Inspiration/Offertory	"How Great Thou Art" (Congregation)
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Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hymn of Consolation	"His Eye Is On The Sparrow" Soloist
Prayer After Communion	
Acknowledgments	Mr. William D. Manns, Esq., Godson
A Poetic Tribute	The Grandchildren

A Collective Eulogy

Dr. Zachary Yamba, President, Essex County College; Moderator
Raymond A. Brown, Sr., Esq.
Sharpe James, Mayor of Newark, NJ
Senator Ronald L. Rice
Dr. Edison O. Jackson
Fr. James A. Aloupis
Other Dignitaries

Inspirational Tribute from the Family	Daryl Joseph Moore, Nephew
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Prayers of Commendation	Fr. Tom Wisniewski
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Congregational Song of Farewell	"Let There Be Peace on Earth" (Congregation)
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Recessional	Soft Music Refrain
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Postlude



In Loving Memory of J. Harry Smith



The Setonian

Volume XLIV - Number 7

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, SOUTH ORANGE, N. J. Wednesday, October 22, 1969

Board Names Black Trustee; Prep Classrooms Planned

The Board of Trustees has named its first black member in the history of Seton Hall. In addition, the Board denied the expenditure of between one and two million dollars for the improvement of the buildings housing Seton Hall Prep, but approved the construction of portable classrooms for the school. J. Harry Smith, vice president of Essex County College in Newark and a 1948 alumnus of Seton Hall, was named to the Board at a meeting held last Wednesday. Smith will fill a vacancy on the Board created several months ago when Dr. Clarence Walton resigned to become the first lay president of Catholic University.

Thomas Gower, secretary of the Board, said that he was "delighted that the Board had made this decision not because Mr. Smith is black, but because he is an educator and an alumnus of Seton Hall."

Smith, who has been active in the civil rights movement and is a member of the American Association of University Professors, said that he was "delighted to be named to the Board and to be the first black member of the Board."

Smith will take over the role of the principal at Harringer High School in Newark, yesterday was named assistant to the president of the Essex County College.

Smith will take over his new post, paying \$14,500, on Feb. 1. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Seton Hall University. His Barringer post paid \$12,160.

Smith's specific duties will be to develop scholarship programs and oversee federal project programs.



J. Harry Smith

Chapman University
Smith's selection to the Essex County Board of Trustees was part of a series of moves designed to bring a strong approach to campus activities. Smith is the executive acting president, Edgar Wilson Fleming.
Dr. Walton, former dean of Seton Hall, was named president of Catholic University. He was named vice president of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

6 NEWARK EVENING NEWS
Tuesday, November 7, 1967

Essex College Post to Smith

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J. HARRY SMITH
Leaving Barringer

Smith is named president of Essex County College

NEWARK — J. Harry Smith, chief executive officer of Essex County College, has been named president by the college's board of trustees.

Smith is the college's third president. He was named to fill the post left vacant by the resignation of Dr. John F. Wilson in February, 1968, when Smith was named "chief executive officer."

Smith assumed the highest administrative post held by a Black man in New Jersey public higher education when he was named vice president of the college in July, 1968. He came to the college as assistant to the president in February, 1968.

He was brought to Newark by the faculty as a five-year-old infant from his birthplace, Newport News, Va. Smith has long been an active contributor to the college.

He has served at state levels of public education and recently achieved national prominence with his election as vice chairman of the National Advisory Council on Adult Education, a 12-member council appointed by President Nixon. Smith also has



J. Harry Smith

been at the forefront of the modern struggle for the rights of minority groups.

Board Prep

The Board of Trustees of Seton Hall University has approved the construction of portable classrooms for the school. J. Harry Smith, vice president and a 1948 alumnus of



Harry Smith

Seton Hall Elects First Negro Trustee

alumnus 25

By WILLIAM HOUTS

NEWARK (UPI) — J. Harry Smith, a Black man, was elected to the Board of Trustees of Seton Hall University, a Catholic university in Newark, N.J., on Wednesday.

Smith, 48, is a 1948 alumnus of Seton Hall and has been active in the civil rights movement.

He was named to the Board of Trustees by a vote of 10-0.

Smith will take over the role of the principal at Harringer High School in Newark, yesterday was named assistant to the president of the Essex County College.

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Some Words About Our President

(Excerpts from the Essex County College Student Newsletter, Winter 1978)

"When we return from the Christmas holidays, there will be a very important member of the family we call Essex County College who will be missing.....our President, J. Harry Smith. He will be on a six-month sabbatical at that time and at the end of that leave, will be leaving his post as President. It will take quite a while for all of us to adjust to not having him around to give advise, cheer us up, help to hold things together and make life here a little easier with his warmth. To say that "you don't miss the importance of someone until they are gone" is highly repetitious. It has been said by thousands. However repetitious it may be, it is still appropriate. Many here will realize the importance of Mr. Smith...after he has gone..."



**An Excerpt from the Keynote Address from Dr. J. Harry Smith
As President of Essex County College
at the 7th ECC Commencement, May 16, 1976**

"...Well, I say commit yourself to being a doer, leaving a mark, committing yourself to people. Yes, think in terms of self-improvement because if you don't improve yourself, there's not much good you can do for anyone else. Try to be a beautiful person, not basically on the exterior, but what we know is inside of one. Try to be a whole person. Work with the mental and the physical side of yourself as well. I think if this is to be the charge that anyone gives to you, it's a charge that will bring benefits to you in every way conceivable, and certainly I hope brings you the blessing you need in order to have a fruitful and joyful life."



Pallbearers

Joseph A. Clarizio
Darryl L. Jeffries
Wallace H. Chance
Daryl J. Moore
Glendon W. Porter
Robert S. VanDevere

Acknowledgements

With sincere gratitude,
the family of the late J. Harry Smith acknowledges
your kind expressions of prayers, sympathy, and support.
Please keep us in your prayers
as we rejoice in the memories of our loved one.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Committal

Fairmount Crematory, Newark, New Jersey

Repast

Following the committal, family and friends are invited
to the Main Cafeteria at Essex County College, Newark, NJ.

*Drivers please turn on your headlights and maintain a close,
but safe interval throughout the funeral procession.*

"A service that is always remembered"

Whigham Funeral Home

Carolyn Whigham, *Owner*
580 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Newark, New Jersey 07102